Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to Notice No. below US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District 1000 Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 200401235

Date: November 30, 2006

Notice No. 06-61

Closing Date: December 30, 2006

AFTER-THE-FACT

1. <u>TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</u>: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

2. APPLICANT:

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation And Natural Resources (DCNR) Rachel Carson State Office Bldg. PO Box 8451 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8451

- 3. <u>LOCATION</u>: in Kinzua Creek and adjacent wetlands, near Mount Jewett, McKean County, Pennsylvania.
- PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK: In July 2003, a tornado struck the Kinzua Viaduct Bridge and eleven of the twenty towers fell to the valley floor. Some of these towers are located in Kinzua Creek and adjacent wetlands. The applicant is proposing to leave as much of the fallen steel in place to preserve the historical significance. DCNR is proposing to leave the steel debris in the 1.99 acres of palustrine emergent/scrub/shrub wetlands adjacent to the creek. All but one piece of steel debris will be removed from the creek. This piece of steel lies longitudinally within the stream and does not impact flooding or backwater and is the support for large sections of debris that is above the floodplain. A Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study determined that there will be a 100-year increase in flood level extending approximately 650 feet upstream of the park property DCNR is in the process of obtaining a flowage easement from the affected landowner. Drawings of the proposed project are attached to this notice.

- 5. <u>ENCROACHMENT PERMIT</u>: The applicant has obtained Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit, E42-311, which includes State 401 Water Quality Certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Regional Office.
- 6. <u>IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES</u>: The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This Public Notice serves as a request to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).
- 7. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Kinzua Viaduct was listed on the National Register of Historic Places but was removed on July 21, 2004. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed on the register which would be directly affected by the proposed work. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice, or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action necessary pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Public Law 89-665 as amended (including Public Law 96-515).
- 8. <u>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES," that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.
- 9. <u>EVALUATION</u>: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land

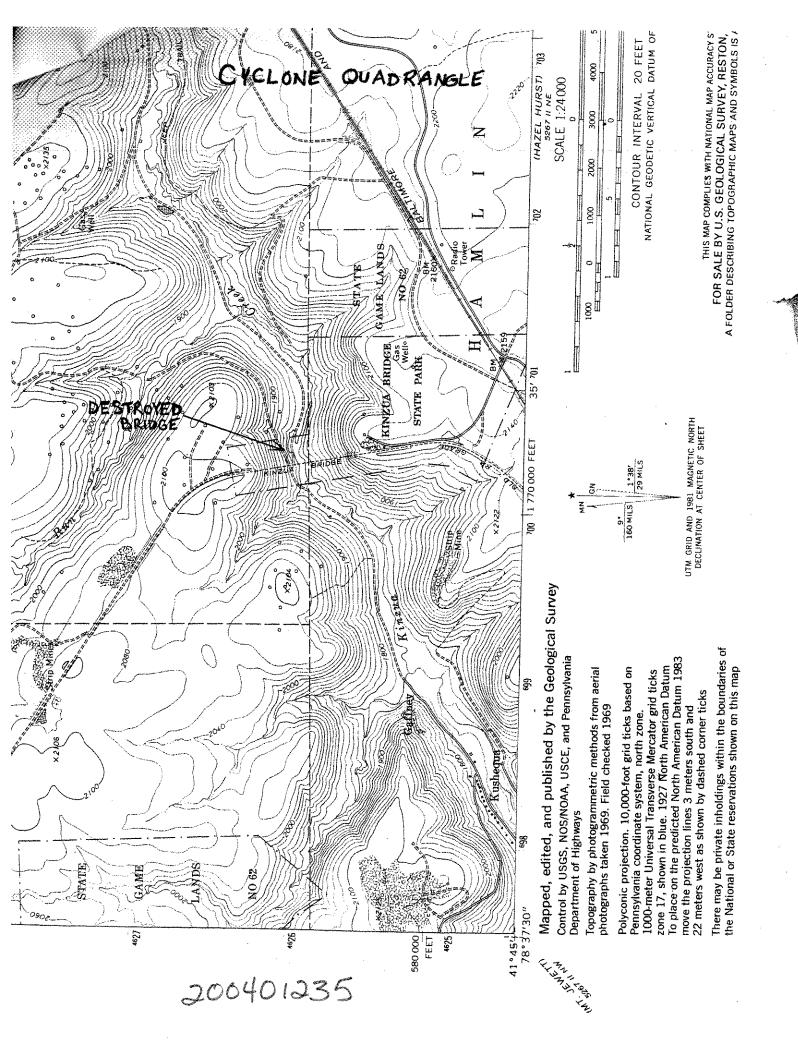
use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

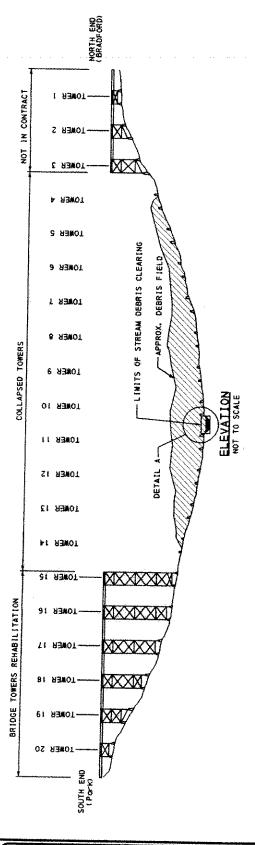
10. <u>RESPONSES</u>: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activity should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. Any objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested DA Permit. All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attn Nancy Mullen, at the above address, by telephoning (412) 395-7170, or by e-mail at Nancy.J.Mullen@lrp02.usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F 200401235 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

/signed/

Michael J. Cummings, Jr. Chief, Regulatory Branch





RE/HRG A JOINT VENTURE 369 EAST PARK DRIVE HARRISBURG, PA 17111 BRIDGE TOWERS REHABILITATION KINZUA BRIDGE STATE PARK HAMLIN & KEATING TOWNSHIPS MCKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA STREAM DEBRIS CLEARING

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